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The College of the City of New York

its faculty and instructors, its students, and its alumni

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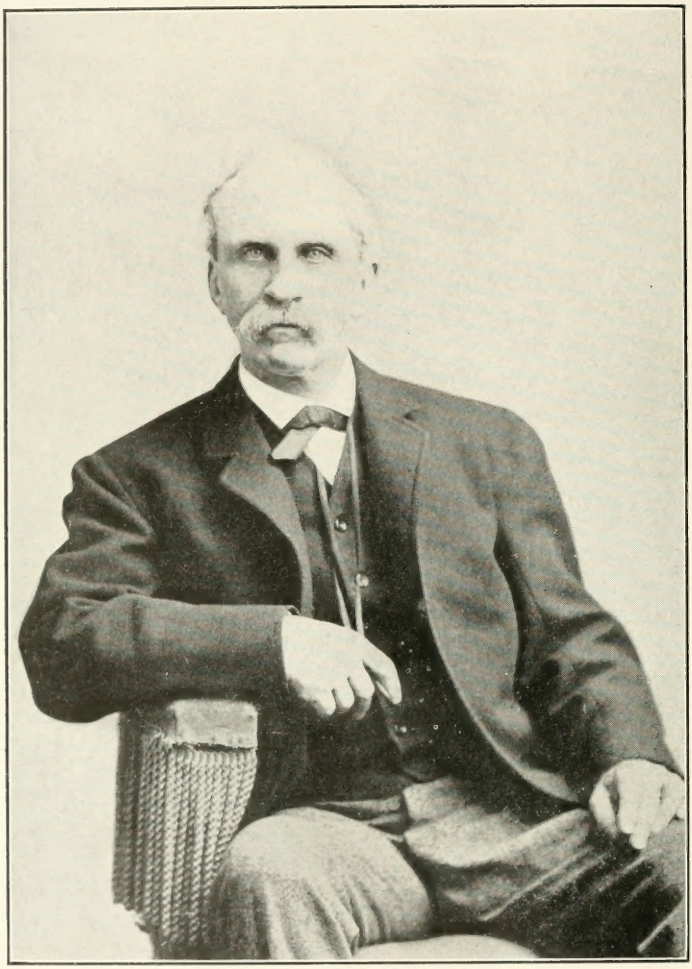

JEAN ROEMER, LL.D.

RECOLLECTIONS OF PROFESSOR ROEMER

WHEN, on the twenty-ninth of October, 1869, I presented myself to President Webb in his office, as the newly appointed Professor of Latin, I found, sitting at his right hand, an old gentleman, apparently in the early sixties, sturdily built, clean shaven, but for a vigorous moustache, with bluish gray eyes, and a far from pointed nose, a high forehead decorated with three or four hairs, the last remnants of what had once been a formidable forest. The President forthwith made me acquainted with him. It was Professor Jean Roemer, as General Webb called him, though the old gentleman himself consistently pronounced his name *Roomer*. Both General Webb and his *ad latus,* who was not as yet vice-president of the College, received me most cordially. However, as all the professors that I met that day, including Anthon, Barton, Doremus, Draper, Werner and Compton, smiled on me, Professor Roemer's cordiality formed no distinguishing characteristic in the picture of him that I carried away. Before long, however, he stood out as a marked figure among the sages of the faculty.

Professor Charles A. Anthon, who occupied the class room next to me, was a square, upright, well-wishing neighbor. We were soon engaged in a conversation on the internal condition of the College, and I learned, what I fancy a newcomer might learn in well nigh every college or university of the land, that the very men who had been singing out how good and charming it is to live as brethren in unity, were far from models of unanimity. In the City College Faculty, Professor Anthon told me, there were two parties, if not three. Professor Roemer figured as the leader of the one, while the second either had no leader, or as many leaders as there were members in the group. As a third party Professor Anthon himself might stand, with Professor Barton and perhaps Professor Doremus. The second party was designated as the Alumni party, though just then, Professor Docharty was its paladin. The point at issue between Professor Roemer and Professor Docharty was who should be

appointed vice-president, and the argument followed the line of seniority. The partisans of Professor Roemer claimed that he had been Professor of French at the College some time before Docharty became Professor of Mathematics. On the other side, it was urged that, in those days, the French Professor had been paid only a dollar an hour, there being no French chair properly speaking until some time after Professor Docharty had been appointed to the chair of mathematics. Anthon advised me to keep out of the turmoil, like himself, and this was not a difficult thing to do. The arguments on the vice-presidential succession did not appeal to me, while both of the candidates did. Besides, I had never been fond of a scrimmage, least of all when I had no interest in it. I found that Professor Anthon had given me a fairly accurate description of conditions in the College long before Roemer was appointed vice-president.

During the first years of President Webb's administration, there was no doubt that he greatly relied on Professor Roemer's advice and guidance, but I fancy that the French Professor's influence was, from the first, considerably exaggerated. The President was a man who did not like the reputation of being anybody's cat's-paw and he was quite capable of turning on his customary guide, merely to demonstrate his independence. Besides, he had a decided aversion to being on the beaten side. Now the anti-Roemer forces had been swelled in 1870 by the entrance into the faculty of David B. Scott, then Principal of the Introductory Department, and later Professor of English. I would not be understood as suggesting that Professor Scott formally joined the anti-Roemer party, nor that this party became the followers of the Principal of the Introductory Department; but Scott loved neither the President nor the Professor of French, and he was a disagreeable opponent. It was soon found that he was not content with rhetorical denunciation, for ere long his friends in the board brought in a resolution to abolish the vice-presidency. Roemer fought valiantly for his dignity, and for a while the President championed his cause in the board of trustees. But it became gradually apparent that the Professor's friends were in the minority and, when the final vote was taken, the President voted with the majority. Professor Roemer was bitterly disappointed and his friendship for

the President received a rude shock, though there was no open break.

Meantime, I had gradually become better acquainted with the various members of the faculty. As my classroom was on the same floor as the French Professor's I came in frequent contact with him, as also with Professors Anthon, Barton and Draper, who were our neighbors. Roemer, I found, was an agreeable gentleman and a polished man of the world. He had a good knowledge of modern French literature, and he also spoke Italian and Spanish. His acquaintance with Latin, moreover, was sufficient to enable him to read Cæsar and Cicero and to write a Latin letter. In the English language he took a deep interest, for he had been struck by the remarkable resemblance between it and the Frisian dialect of the Dutch tongue, a dialect with which he had been familiar since his youthful days, when he had been captain in a Frisian regiment. To his early military training he was indebted for a knowledge of the ordinary college mathematics, a subject which interested him as long as he lived, and he often took delight in recalling some of the practical mathematical problems which had occupied his attention as a military man. He had a natural taste for science both physical and biological. In short, he was a man of many acquirements, interested in many departments of human knowledge, though not a profound scholar in any of them. He was well acquainted with many European countries and with their modern history. In American politics he was not so well versed and he certainly was not an enthusiastic partisian of either of the great American parties. Indeed, though a resident of the United States since 1846, and though acquainted with many prominent Americans, he never became an American citizen. Socially he was a man of great attractive power. His courtly manner made him a favorite with the ladies, and his travels and experiences in European circles enabled him to give interest and charm to his conversation. He was fond of amusing children, whom he could divert by all manner of tricks, including various feats of legerdemain. He spoke English with an accent which, while it suggested a Frenchman, was nevertheless not purely French.

A man with so many accomplishments could not fail to wield considerable influence, especially as these accomplishments were coupled with great energy and a decided tendency to lead rather

than to be led. He was a good hater, but like most good haters, he was also a loyal friend. I know this from my own relations with him, though I have often heard him taxed with unreliability. Once he had espoused a cause, he fought for it to the last ditch. He was an enthusiastic advocate of the free City College and upheld its cause even among the many enemies in the wealthy classes, who in the seventies and eighties sought every occasion to denounce and undermine it. He took a lively interest in his students and I have heard many of them speak of him in terms of warm affection. It must be acknowledged, however, that not all of the alumni were equally friendly to him. Perhaps he was not free from blame in this matter. So much is sure, that during the early years of General Webb's administration, many of the graduates, especially those connected with the College, looked upon him as hostile to the alumni, and not without reason. How this mutual dislike originated, I do not know. Some of the measures carried at that time, whether aimed at the alumni or not, no doubt disadvantageously affected the interests of many of them who were instructors in the College. When, in the middle of the seventies, I had become more intimate with him, I ventured to point out to Professor Roemer the folly of an anti-alumni policy, emphasizing the fact that the college always finds its strongest defenders in the alumni and suggesting that to antagonize a body so strong even then, and destined to become stronger from year to year, was a suicidal policy. The old gentleman, for he was between thirty and forty years older than I, did not close his eyes to these arguments. I know that he sought and held the friendship of such men as Colonel Ketchum and Major Lydecker outside of the College, as well as of some of the alumni instructors within its walls.

I have said that Professor Roemer was an enthusiastic admirer of our free college. This appeared especially in 1877, when the so-called Grady Bill, providing for the abolition of the College, was brought into the legislature. In the year 1908 it is difficult to conceive the alarm caused by this bill. To-day the College has taken such firm root as a part of the city educational system that the voice of opposition has been hushed for many years. In 1877, however, hardly one of the great New York journals championed the cause of the people's college, and not a few vigorously advocated the bill abolishing it. The faculty, the natural

defenders of the institution, convinced of its value and usefulness as a part of the great educational system of the city, had for years been unable to get a hearing in the metropolitan press. The majority of the so-called four hundred were bitterly hostile. It was almost to invite ostracism for one of their members to venture a plea in its behalf. The press being inimical, what were the defenders of the College to do by way of influencing public opinion and showing that the citizens of New York were, in 1877, as earnest in their desire to give higher education to their children, as they had been in 1848? Professor Scott and some others advocated a mass meeting in the Cooper Institute; but it was suggested that, in so populous a city as New York, it would not be difficult for the enemies of the College to crowd the Cooper Institute not only once, but several times. It was pointed out that the College authorities had in their hands a means of showing the real feelings of the citizens of New York much more direct and much more impressive than any mass meeting could be, especially when the press was almost universally hostile. This means was a petition memorializing the legislature in behalf of the College. Several thousand copies were to be printed, and the students were to go from house to house to gather signatures. Professor Roemer enthusiastically adopted this scheme and induced President Webb to endorse it. The faculty, when the advantages of the plan were shown, unanimously adopted it and, on the Monday following the introduction of the bill at Albany, hundreds of youthful missionaries scoured the city for signatures. Professor Roemer was most active in pushing the plan and watched its progress from day to day with the utmost solicitude. Whenever I met the old gentleman, his eyes gleamed with delight, as he told of the thousands of names that had been gathered since our last meeting. He encouraged the students when they left the College on their patriotic mission and praised them when they returned with a new roll of signatures. Knowing by heart the names of all the distinguished citizens who had rallied to the cause of free higher education, he was especially jubilant when the boys brought in a petition signed by someone whom he had often heard advocating the destruction of the College. In all the many years that I knew Professor Roemer, I do not remember any time when he was so full of almost juvenile zeal and eagerness. Another evidence of his deep interest in the College was

his foundation of a prize in elocution for the best declaimers in the upper classes. It was only after his death that he was officially announced as the donor of the prizes, for his feelings as a gentleman prohibited him from seeking notoriety above his colleagues. He was animated by the sole desire of helping the cause of the College.

It is not the object of this paper chronologically to trace the activity of Professor Roemer through the many years of his service in the College. That would only be monotonous. His work can be résuméd in a few words. As a teacher and professor he was unlike the typical college instructor of the present day. Sixty and more years ago, it was not uncommon to appoint to collegiate chairs men whose first choice of a profession had led them far away from academic pursuits. It was an ordinary occurrence to find clergymen, lawyers and journalists forsake their professions to accept professorships. The chairs of modern languages especially were often occupied by educated Europeans, such as the Italian Professor Da Ponte, who wrote the libretto of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and who, after failing in New York as a merchant, became professor of Italian at Columbia College. Not infrequently, too, old army officers from France and Germany were called to academic chairs, so that Professor Roemer's appointment in the City College was by no means a singular event. His military life made him a strict disciplinarian, while his vigorous character led him to make various experiments in devising new methods of teaching modern languages, as is well shown by the series of readers which he published. He was an earnest teacher and, as I said before, he was generally liked by his students. It was not a disadvantage for these boys to come in contact with a type of man in so great contrast with the average instructor. He impressed his pupils perhaps less as a pedagogue than as a man of the world, for he did not hesitate at times to speak to them of his travels and of his personal experiences. For forty-five years his sturdy figure might be seen limping in a rather positive way through the halls of the institution, occupying the teacher's chair in his class room and, when free from class duties, sitting at the right hand of the President in his office.

Now and then, especially in the spring, a severe attack of influenza—grippe we should call it now—kept him at home from

a week to a month. These absences grew more regular as he advanced in years, but when he returned to College, he looked and spoke as if he had taken a new lease of life. He had a special fear of the month of March, and felt convinced that the spring would some time carry him off. But in this he was mistaken. He died on the last day of August, 1892, not in the city of New York, but in Lenox, Mass.

Many of the college instructors spoke of Professor Roemer as a man of wealth. This idea was based in part on the fact that he always made his home in expensive quarters, and that for years he kept several carriages and an impressive team of horses. Moreover he was, for a time at least, part owner of an extensive summer residence at Bash-Bish Falls, near Copake in the Berkshire Hills. It is not unlikely that during the Civil War he speculated in Wall Street, for he told me that he had lost as much as $50,000 in a day. So much is certain, however, that towards the end of his life, his capital had practically dwindled away, though to the last he kept up the appearances of a gentleman of means.

The picture so far drawn, represents Professor Roemer as I knew him for twenty-four years; but I have not so far touched upon the questions which invested the old gentleman with an interest all peculiar to himself. For forty years he walked through the halls of the College, and for forty years the question was again and again whispered among his colleagues, as well as among successive generations of students, "Who is Professor Roemer?" I had not been a month at the College before I learned that the French Professor was a mysterious person connected with European royalty, whose age was variously stated and whose parentage was variously guessed at. It would be useless to repeat all the stories set afloat by Dame Rumor, the more so as the informant generally had no special sources of information. The statement that all agreed on was that the professor bought every year a copy of the *Almanach de Gotha*, which seemed to confirm the story of his connection with royalty. After all it was a slim foundation for so romantic a construction. The first undisputed fact throwing light on his early history, I learned from President Webb, two or three years after I became connected with the College. The Dutch envoy at Washington, General Webb told me, regularly every year wrote to him inquiring

whether Mr. Jean Roemer was still alive and still teaching at the College. These inquiries were repeated for many years though, if memory serves me, they grew less frequent as the time advanced. Of course they only proved that the object of them possessed a certain interest to the government of Holland and, as the inquiries were repeated for so long a time, they suggested that this interest concerned, not the changeable, but the permanent elements in the Dutch government. General Webb also told me of other stray items in the professor's career; for instance, of his having been in the Dutch army, of his having been military attaché in Naples, and of similar incidents showing his connection officially with the government of Holland. It was many years after I heard the romantic tales making him a Dutch prince and the like, that I learned from the professor's own lips the story of his life, as far as he thought well to communicate it to me or, perhaps, as well as he knew it himself. His story was as follows:

He was born in London (he gave no date) and was afterwards taken to Holland. There he was entrusted to a Professor Roemer, who was a teacher of some prominence and who reared him as his own son. When he was fourteeen years old, Mr. Roemer one day took him aside and informed him that he had some important matters to make known to him. "I am not your father as you have hitherto thought," he said, "nor can I tell you who your father is, but here I give you a letter; this you will take to the royal castle and present it at the entrance. This is all I have to say to you." He presented the letter as directed and was ushered into the audience chamber, where he found the king (William I) who received him very kindly, and told him that thence-forward he would take care of him. The king kept his word. The boy was placed in a military school, where he was educated for the army. After a few years, on finishing his studies, he received an appointment in a cavalry regiment consisting of Frisian troops, as I have stated above. He had not long served there, when the war of Belgian independence broke out, in which the Frisian regiment saw active military service. The most important event of the struggle was the siege of Antwerp, and there young Roemer did his duty to the full. But fortune did not smile on the Dutch arms. When the war was over and Belgian independence established, King William by way

CAPTAIN ROEMER.

of recognizing his ward's merit, and in order to give him the opportunity of further mastering military science, sent him to study the chief European armies.

I cannot give a full account of this part of his career, but my impression is that Hanover was for some considerable time his home. There young Roemer led an active life and made many friends and some enemies. His limping gait was the result of a duel fought while in the Hanoverian army, in which he received a serious wound in the groin. In Hanover also he met the friend from whose estate came to him annually a small annuity, which he received to the end of his life. Later on, Austria became his temporary home. At that time Marshal Radetzky was the chief of the Austrian army and his fame as a commander was widespread in the military profession. Captain Roemer received an appointment on Radetzky's staff, and he always spoke in warm praise of the Austrian commander-in-chief. It was probably at this time that the portrait of Professor Roemer, here reproduced, which represents him as a cavalry officer, was painted. Our readers will recognize at once that the Dutch officer was a fine military figure. The picture hung for many years in the old professor's room, where I have often seen it. Some five or six years before his death it disappeared, but not before he had a photographic copy made of it, and our illustration is taken from one of these which he presented to me.

After his service on Radetsky's staff, the duration of which I do not know, Captain Roemer probably spent some time at home. In the early forties the king appointed him military attaché to the Dutch legation at Naples, where he stayed for a number of years. Naples, however, was not the only part of Italy which the young officer visited. The attractions of Rome brought him to that city, where he made many acquaintances both among the nobility and the clerical officials. Though brought up in the Dutch Reformed Church, young Roemer's religious convictions were neither deep nor narrow. He felt quite at home in the Roman atmosphere, though he had at no time any inclination to become a Roman Catholic. What often excited my surprise was that, when professor at the College, his library table at home always displayed a copy of Thomas à Kempis' *Imitation of Christ,* which he told me he was very fond of reading. Besides Rome, Florence also attracted him, though only for flying visits. At

Naples he soon made many friends, but these were not the friends of the King of Naples, Francis I. Some of his intimates were well known malcontents who, in course of time, found it wise to leave their country and settle either in London or in the United States. Among the Neapolitan noblemen whom he afterwards met in New York was the Duke of Calabria, who forty years ago kept a restaurant in Hoboken. The restaurant was quite a noted feature in the days when Hoboken was a place of pilgrimage for New Yorkers, especially on Sundays. As the visitor landed from the ferry, he faced a two-story brick building with a large sign overtopping the upper floor, bearing the words, "The Duke's House." The Duke was Professor Roemer's old acquaintance from Naples, who, at this time initiated hungry New Yorkers into the mysteries of Italian cookery. His spaghetti with tomato sauce, seasoned with Parmesan cheese, was a delicacy highly appreciated by cosmopolitan gourmands. The duke was his own chef, and his art made life more comfortable for him than it had been at the court of King Francis.

But the Duke has led me astray: let us return to the Bay of Naples. Professor Roemer's Neapolitan friends were found chiefly among the liberal nobility, and the mouths of the young bloods were not always filled with macaroni. At times their hearts were full of spite against the old king, which they expressed, often too loudly and with little wisdom. The Dutch attaché, presumably when carried away by the eloquence of his comrades and affected, perhaps, by the hot Neapolitan winds, did not spare his criticisms of the Bourbon king. According to his own story, it was he who dubbed his Neapolitan majesty "King Bomba." Such amusements, while no doubt very tempting, were not likely to make Captain Roemer *persona grata* to the ruler of Naples. Reports of his unpleasant utterances reached the king's ear, and the Dutch government was requested to withdraw the ill-spoken attaché. This episode put an end to Captain Roemer's enjoyment of the beauties of the Bay of Naples, for he was at once recalled to the Hague. In Holland, meanwhile, matters had not been at a standstill. Roemer's old protector was no longer on the throne, and the new king seems to have had no excessive liking for his predecessor's protégé. Roemer, moreover, set up claims to property in the Dutch East Indies, which the king was in no wise inclined to admit, while the captain was decidedly

averse to giving them up. The dispute waxed more and more unpleasant until finally, Captain Roemer, convinced that no further laurels were blooming for him at The Hague, determined to seek his fortune in the new world.

We have now reached the period when the United States were at war with Mexico. The Dutch officer conceived the idea that in this war he could win new laurels and lay the foundation of his fortune. He had been on terms of friendship with the American envoy to Holland and with the latter's friends. From them he received letters of introduction to various prominent men in the United States, among them, I remember, Governor Marcy of New York, the Reverend Dr. Powers of St. Peters and some other eminent New York citizens. So he sailed for his new home, full of hope and good spirits, trusting that his sword would gain for him honor and position. But fortune proved unkind, and the Dutch warrior's plans were never realized. When he arrived, the Mexican war was at an end. Peace had just been concluded, and Othello's occupation was gone. The letters of introduction, however, were duly presented, the Hollander was received with great courtesy, but his services were not needed. Dr. Powers, he used to tell me, proved his best friend, for he frankly told him that his military aspirations could not be realized and that he had better turn his energies in another direction. But what was he to do? He had so far only written occasional articles for the *Courrier des États-Unis,* which brought him neither much money nor great glory. After looking over the field, he concluded that the most ready means of supporting himself at the time and securing advancement in the future was to teach French. The friends he had gained helped him to obtain private pupils. Among them were such men as Mr. Nash, for many years a trustee of Columbia College, and Mr. Williams, grandfather of Profesor Jackson, who now holds the Columbia chair of Iranian languages. The latter at that time was president of the Board of Education, and it was Mr. Williams' influence that procured for Roemer his appointment as Professor of French in the City College.

This is the story of Professor Roemer's life, as told by him to me. After his appointment to the City College, the professor seems to have had but little communication with Holland. The Dutch government seems not to have corresponded with him though,

as we saw, it did not altogether lose sight of him. Perhaps four or five years before his death, things in Holland took a turn which led him to think, in a not very serious way, of returning to The Hague. What his plans were he never told me. The President said that he had some dreams of being made Prime Minister there. I say dreams, for it appears a dream that a man well advanced in the seventies, to say the least, after forty years of absence, should be placed at the head of the Dutch Cabinet. Be that as it may, Professor Roemer stayed in New York.

This may be the proper place to advert to another incident. In the 80's the Comte de Paris, who had served with General Webb on General McClellan's staff, paid a visit to his friend in the United States. To his old companion in arms General Webb gave a reception, which he invited the Vice-President of the College to attend. A day or two before this reception, so the President told me, he asked Professor Roemer how he should introduce him to the Comte de Paris, and on that occasion the old gentleman explained to the President that he was the son of Sophia, Princess of Orange, the daughter of the King of Holland, William I, I presume. She was married to the erratic Duke of Brunswick, who spent most of his time travelling and who fell in the battle of Waterloo. The Princess retired to London where, as we have seen, Professor Roemer was born. He was a posthumous child.

To me the old gentleman never made any statement connecting himself with the Dutch royal family, though the story I have repeated above strongly suggests such a connection. In his conversations he never said anything betraying much respect for kings and nobles. On the contrary, he was a republican in his sympathies, and sometimes laughed at the tendency of some Americans to claim connection with European nobility.

It is but fitting that I should add to this recital the story of Professor Roemer's life contained in Appelton's *Encyclopedia of American Biography*. The accounts of living persons contained in that and similar publications are, as all know, based upon data furnished by the subjects themselves. It will not be rash, therefore, to assume that Professor Roemer furnished the materials for this story.

JEAN ROEMER.—Born in England about 1815, he was taken in infancy to Hanover, and afterward to Holland. His early education was conducted by private tutors under the guardianship of William I, king of the Netherlands, and Frederica Louisa Wilhelmina, Princess of Orange, and wife of Charles George Augustus, heir-apparent of the crown of Brunswick. He was destined for the army, and served on the Dutch side throughout the war of secession between Holland and Belgium, at the close of which he visited the great military establishments of France, Prussia, and Austria, and completed his studies in Lombardy under the guidance and auspices of Field-Marshal Count Radetzky. Subsequently he resided in Naples, where a close intimacy with the Prince of Syracuse, ex-viceroy of Sicily, and some articles that were attributed to him, caused much comment. They gave umbrage to King Ferdinand II, whose distrust of the liberal tendencies of his brother lent to this friendship a political significance. It became the subject of diplomatic correspondence, and led to the visitor's recall from Italy early in 1845. Some time after the death of William I, whose successor on the throne appears to have been influenced by a different spirit from that of his father concerning Mr. Roemer, the pretensions of the latter began to take a definite form, setting forth claims to titles and estates, the right to which was denied him on special grounds, which ever since have been maintained against him. Strong efforts made in his behalf have not availed, and even at the congress of German sovereigns, held in Frankfurt in 1863, a well-supported attempt at compromise and conciliation remained without result. Since 1846 he has resided in the United States. In 1848 he accepted the post of professor of French language and literature in the New York Free Academy, and in 1869 he was appointed vice-president of the College of the City of New York, which place he occupies at present (1888). In addition to articles and pamphlets on agriculture, education, and linguistics, he has published a "Dictionary of English-French Idioms" (New York, 1853), "Polygot Readers" (5 vols., 1858), "Cavalry: Its History, Management, and Uses in War" (1863), "Cours de lecture et de traduction" (3 vols., 1884), "Principles of General Grammar" (1884), and "Origins of the English People and of the English Language" (1888).

It will be seen that there is nothing in this recital which is at variance with the story I have recounted above. As regards the Frankfurt Congress of 1863 and its failure to pronounce on Jean Roemer's claims, this need not astonish us, for the Congress was called by Francis Joseph of Austria to remodel the German confederation, as is told at length in Prince Chlodwig of Hohenlohe's *Memoirs,* recently published. The fact that an appeal was made to a Congress of German sovereigns indicates that his claims had reference to some German principality, and this

squares with the account of his identity given by the Professor to General Webb. Whoever Professor Roemer was, and whatever his claim, he must always remain an interesting figure in the history of the College of the City of New York. His warm interest in the institution and his faithful services will always command the respect, not only of those who knew him intimately, but of all who are interested in the affairs of the College.

CHARLES G. HERBERMANN.

THE ESPECIAL FUNCTION OF THE CITY COLLEGE

PROFESSOR FERRERO has recently called attention to the similarity, in many respects, of social conditions in New York to those which existed in Rome in the time of the empire. In each city the increase in wealth and luxury has been great. Each has come to be inhabited by a crowding multitude composed of persons of every race and religion. The history of Rome shows that it had not life enough to keep it sweet; not cohesion enough to preserve it from going to pieces. And the question which he puts, in effect, to the New Yorker of to-day is this—Is there in our city any more vital and unifying force than existed in ancient Rome?

When we look more closely into the social conditions of the two cities, we find in New York a comprehensive system of public education to which there was no analogue in Rome. The pinnacle of this system is the City College. That, to my mind, is the most important part of it. In every community the real leaders give tone to the majority. Democracy does not change this essential condition of human nature. A true democracy undoubtedly provides that the rights of the weakest citizen shall be respected. It should provide also that the law, as far as possible, should give to each an equal opportunity. To accomplish these results is the main object of our courts, and of our schools. But when they have done all that they can do, the fact remains that in every community there are leaders who do give tone to public sentiment. It is the business of the City College to train the ambitious men who, by process of natural selection, are chosen out of the great body of scholars, and come up hither to receive a training which will enable those of them who are apt and persevering to lead intelligently and wisely.

In this process men of differing races and religions meet on one platform. They learn to understand one another better; to appreciate the different standpoint of each, and thereby come

to perceive the influence upon conduct that follows from the traditions of the past. It is often said that under the constitution of this state the city cannot use its property, or any public money, in aid of any institution of learning in which any denominational tenet or doctrine is taught. This is true, and this rule has always been scrupulously observed in the management of the College. But it does not at all follow that the students of this College may not, and should not, understand something of the religious principles of other members. The religious principles of a man's ancestors form a very important part of his moral and intellectual constitution. We cannot understand the history of the world without knowing something of the religion of the nations which have composed the world. We cannot understand Roman history unless we recognize the fact that the religion of the Romans, who made the republic what it was, had ceased to control the conduct of the Romans of the time of the empire.

And in this city, the man who would understand the various influences which are powerful to-day must appreciate the fact that a very large proportion of our people are Hebrews, and he should make it his business to study the Hebrew Scriptures and endeavor to understand the influence that they have exercised, not only in Jerusalem, but wherever they have been taught throughout the world. It would be well for him to remember the words that Milton, in his great poem, "Paradise Regained," puts into the mouth of Christ, when he is drawing a comparison between the Greek philosophers and the Hebrew prophets, and says of the former:

> "To our prophets far beneath,
> As men divinely taught and better teaching
> The solid truths of civil government
> In their majestic, unaffected style,
> Than all the oratory of Greece or Rome."

Indeed, there is no more graphic description of the luxury and extravagance that riot in the rich and overcrowded cities of to-day, than we find in the earlier chapters of Isaiah, nor any more stimulating words of encouragement to the reformer than we find in the later chapters of that wonderful book.

On the other hand, it seems to me equally imporant that our Hebrew fellow-citizens should study the teaching of the Christian Scriptures, and appreciate the effect that these teachings have

had upon the progress of mankind. And let me say that there is no more eloquent eulogium upon the heroes and law-givers of the Hebrew race than is to be found in the Epistle to the Hebrews, which is contained in these Scriptures.

The great difficulty that both Hebrews and Christians encounter it this: The story of the past nineteeen centuries is in many respects a sad story of prejudice and persecution. These crimes against humanity are contrary to the express teachings, both of the Hebrew prophets and of the Christian apostles. But nevertheless, they have been committed and it is impossible to ignore them. The City College brings men together on a footing of friendly co-operation and mutual respect, who in former centuries would have been taught to dislike and distrust each other. This must tell, and does tell, for mutual friendliness, and is doing much to eradicate the roots of bitterness which have in the past borne such evil fruit.

In the study which I have thus urged, we should act as intelligent men. We should, in examining religious books, as we should in examining all other books, endeavor to understand their history, the condition of the people to whom primarily they were addressed, and, in a word, appreciate not only the grammatical meaning, but the spiritual significance and bearing of what is said with reference to our own times and conditions. It is true in all the professions that he who limits his examination to the letter of the book sticks in the bark and never gets to the heart of the tree. "The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

EVERETT P. WHEELER, '56.

Editorial

FOR the lateness of the recent issues of THE QUARTERLY we express regret and offer apologies. The June number, which contained the addresses at the Dedication Ceremonies, could not be sent to the printer on time. We had to wait for some of the material, so that the first proofs did not reach us until after Commencement. It was therefore well on in the summer before this number was ready for distribution, and it seemed wise to delay sending it out until September. This led to a corresponding delay in the appearance of the September issue, though, through no fault on the part of the editors, this delay was much longer than it should have been. Now the spring-time is upon us, and we present our readers with a magazine which should have reached them in December. The only excuse than can be offered is the press of work at the College, which keeps almost all the editors occupied during the entire day. There has, it is felt, been some fault in the organization of THE QUARTERLY. The particular tasks have, perhaps, not always been clearly defined. Nevertheless, the difficulty of getting information and of getting suitable articles on time has been very great. In both regards the alumni, as individuals, could be of great assistance without in the least feeling a burdensome responsibility. To those who have kindly helped us in the past we extend our sincere thanks, and we hope for a continuance of their active interest.

It is only through the active interest of our alumni that THE QUARTERLY can serve its purpose. Some have criticized us for the unpardonable offence of being dull. We are heartily sorry to have oppressed a single reader. Were we as tedious as a king, we should prefer to bury this obnoxious quality ten fathoms deep. We wish to be read, not for our own sakes, but for the sake of the College which we represent.

As a slight palliation of the heavy charge, we might suggest

that a quarterly periodical cannot be expected to provide fresh news, and that, as a chronicle, our magazine must record, even if briefly, the chief happenings at the College and among the graduates. In this very number, for example, there is a record of many meetings in the Great Hall, at the City College Club, of the Phi Beta Kappa Chapter, of classes and societies, which are long past. Our feeling has been that nothing pertaining to the College was foreign to any alumnus.

It is our earnest desire to increase the space devoted to the doings of alumni, but this part of our work has been most difficult and unsatisfactory. A man of a given time is likely to know much about the graduates who attended while he was in College, but he rarely sends us the information. When we meet at class dinners, we are surprised to hear that so-and-so has attained such-and-such a distinction. We are glad to hear it, and it seems probable that even graduates who are not personally acquainted with the person involved would also be pleased to get the news of his success.

Readers, send us word about yourselves and your classmates

The gifts which the College is receiving from classes and from individuals will doubtless have the effect of making it more precious to all who are connected with it. Walls will be adorned with portraits, tapestries and banners; pictured windows will artistically mitigate the glare of the sunlight; the library will be enriched; and the Historical Museum will be filled with relics, interesting in themselves, and doubly interesting for the sake of the donors.

One of the most impressive of these recent gifts is the magnificent bronze head of Lincoln, presented by the distinguished sculptor, Gutzon Borglum. Though unveiled in the Great Hall, it now stands in a fitting position at the end of the main corridor, which it dominates with a wonderful majesty. When the flood of speeches poured forth on the Lincoln centenary is forgotten, that masterpiece will continue to be an inspiration to generation after generation of the youth of this city.

In addition to the ordinary matters of administration, there are now before the Faculty and the Board of Trustees serious problems which must be of deep interest to all. Among these are the questions connected with a night college, and the acceptance for the Academic Department of the examinations of the State Department of Education. Our preparatory curriculum has been brought into harmony with the College entrance requirements represented in the Regents' certificate. Now comes the question, Shall their examinations direct our methods of teaching in Townsend Harris Hall?

ECHOES FROM THE COLLEGE WORLD

WEST POINT. Nearly all the generals and other superior officers in the armies of our Civil War, whether North or South, were graduates of West Point. This interesting circumstance is an illustration of the probability that a man who has acquired a certain technology will, when the opportunity comes to him, practise that techology more accurately than the man who has only a half-yielding opportunity and next to no training. Now, whether War is really an industrial art or science or something quite else, it does happen that a nation falls indolently into the lap of luxuriant Peace and stays there so long sometimes, that the man who is ready to clap on his epaulets and to brandish his sword at the mere touch of a button may get no opportunity at all to march forth. Hence, West Point, driven to alien activities, has produced "fourteen judges, sixty chancellors, regents and presidents of universities and colleges (two at this college); eighty-seven presidents of railroads and corporations; seventy-four chief engineers; eight bank presidents; besides many high government officials," according to Col. Charles W. Larned of the Academy in a recent number of a popular magazine. We wonder whether two or three other institutions even a bit greater or more famous than West Point can show so much when the figures are reduced to unlying percentage.

The Academy on the best bend in the Hudson has always been a pleasant place to see but it is to become a thing of even finer beauty, outwardly certainly and inwardly probably. For spacious and imposing new buildings are to be set up for which already over $7,00,000 have been appropriated, but this sum will have to be increased, for the new West Point has been emerging from dream into reality over a period of nine years and in that time everything has grown dearer except ideas. The alluring outlines of the future West Point will be English Tudor Gothic, and if as it is pointed out there is a certain vertical feeling about the beauty of this style, that will be in harmony with the best militray spirit. But Col. Larned is not exclusively concerned with

the outward West Point, he has abiding confidence in the virtues of the training that West Point puts inside the man who graduates at the Academy and he is willing to compare military education more than favorably with any other kind given in any institution whatsoever, however high it may stand. Indeed this is what he does in an article in the *North American Review* of last April. He quotes with approbation the following sentence from Paul Leroy-Beaulieu: "Every age is characterized by its peculiar craze. The present craze is for education unlimited and injudicious; and for philanthropy equally unlimited and injudicious—both absolutely superficial." Col. Larned quotes definitions of education from Spencer, Huxley, Professor James, President Butler and others. He would accept a composite statement including the ideas of "a mental process," "manner of living," a trained body, passions under control, a tender conscience, respect for self and others, active citizenship, and so on. We quote: "Our heritage of schooling from the Revival of Learning was a bondage to dead languages and the splendid shreds of a buried civilization; and the incongruity and incoherence of modern teaching are due to the endeavor to adapt archaic ideals and methods to a practical and scientific age.

"The military school trains for character and for the state. It systematically develops the body and it educates the mind along a consistent line for the double purpose of clear thinking and effective practical work. It exercises the character in discipline of action; habits of subordination to lawful authority; strict personal accountability for word and act; truth-telling; integrity and fidelity to trust; simplicity of life; courage." Personal interest, luxury, pursuit of wealth are here minimized. In addition to the ability to command, and to shoot this is not little for a military or any other kind of school.

Col. Larned affirms that the two great motive powers at the Academy are *Control* and *Reward*—the cadet has a clear perspective; a second-lieutenancy within his immediate grasp and a major-generalship not entirely out of sight. At the Academy the student's mind and body are rigidly trained by well-defined physical exercises and a completely prescribed curriculum. O Lovely and Fortunate West Point where the student need not sit up o'er nights, haggard and lorn to determine whether his mind is more fit for landscape-gardening than for Greek, and

where the professor need not at 6 P. M. teach five boys the habits of domesticated cats because that's the one thing their minds can best understand. To be sure Col. Larned has had to answer the question whether the West Point System is *discipline* or *education* and whether it is not entirely vocational; and in answering the Colonel has used his pen (even in the hand of the soldier, the pen is mightier than the sword) vigorously in explanation and in attack. The elective system, the so-called frills and fads of the public schools, the old formal teaching of Greek and Latin, the encouragement of independence, almost licence, of the American student, have all come under the ban of the Colonel in a number of earnest, well-considered articles appearing sometimes in one periodical, sometimes in another. Col. Larned says: "*For Mind Training,* the whole curriculum of undergraduate education should be revised and reorganized by a National Congress of Educators whose decision would be made operative by law—if possible in the entire educational system and at least in that of the public schools. I would build up an organic body of control from the bottom to the top, derived in part from the teaching *personnel* and in part appointed by the executive authority from the active professional and industrial world—for an education not in harmony with social activities is a locomotive off the track. There should be a Secretary of Education (*we remark,* as in *France* and *elsewhere*) a Cabinet Officer with an administrative National Board of Regents; this Board should, etc., etc."

One of the admirable services that West Point performs is that it converts for a time at least, a number of military officers into very desirable civilian educators who have time to construct other things than academic military maps.

The Sage of Concord suggested a professorship of Books and to-morrow some needy Soul may cry out for a professorship of the Obvious. Books are multitudinous and unconquerable; the Obvious is multifarious and entangling. The Obvious is so near the eye that it cannot be seen and its meshes so twist the feet that the mind is carried into unexpected lands. President David Starr Jordan of Stanford finds it necessary to affirm that the University President and the College President are necessary (evils, perhaps) at least for the present. (The *Independent.*) It seems that in the opinion of many, "exaggerated importance

is attached to the university president who holds a monopoly of public attention on the one hand and of academic power on the other," so that the faculty and the individual professor are diminished in dignity and influence to the extent that the college men of America compare unfavorably in position with their confrères, say in Germany and England. "All this we may admit," says President Jordan, "but in the institutions of higher education, as they now exist in America the practical need of a continuous and firm-handed executive cannot be questioned. In my judgment the president ought not to stand alone in this responsibility; no appointment in the faculty and no single act of importance, as related to academic work, should be accomplished without the consent and approval of the academic faculty. The president should represent his colleagues in all forward movements. But the initiative should rest somewhere and as things now are it should rest with the college president. I use the term "college president" advisedly, not "university president." A university actually organized needs no central controlling authority, but a college takes its individuality, its color and its movement from some master spirit. To call our colleges universities does not make them such. To draw the line between 'college,' and 'university,' terms which with us still mean the same thing, is now the most important matter in our higher education."

The Ocean of Ink is like the other Ocean in this: it will equally well carry safely or swallow indiscriminately a cargo of false wine as a load of honest fruit.

But our own Eliot (whose Eliot is he not?) has for two score years practised and now placidly describes in his book, *University Administration,* a presidential policy which is bound to affect the views of presidents and professors on the management of college affairs. The book is made up of the Harris Lectures delivered at Northwestern University by the President of Harvard. It is a dispassionate exposition of ideas and practices luminously expressed, and it might almost be introduced as a text-book into the department of College Economy which may at any moment be created by the United National Manufacturers of College Chairs, Unl't'd.

President Eliot's most pronounced idea in regard to the college or university president is that he should be an ever present influence and guide. He is the man, who, while not interfering

with the strictly internal affairs of a department (so long as that department is wisely administered), unifies all the efforts of the institution by giving it an axis and keeping that axis adjusted to some constellation. The president, to bring this about has and should always have sufficient power. He has means in plenty: ex-officio membership in all faculties, splendid opportunities to judge of the men about him and the discretion to appoint them on committees for which their talents may be best suited, close relations with the trustees, intimate knowledge of the general needs of the institution and of the several departments, responsibility in the management of the finances, an influential relation to public interests and educational movements and, more than all, a preponderating influence in determining appointments to and promotions within the instructing staff.

President Eliot is strongly opposed to anything like autocratic power in the head of a university. "Indeed, one-man power is always objectionable in a university, whether lodged in president, secretary of the trustees, dean or head of department. In order to make progress of a durable sort, the president will have to possess his soul in patience; and on that account a long tenure will be an advantage to him and to the university he serves. After an experience of five months in the presidency of Harvard, Dr. Eliot said at his inauguration: "The President should be able to discern the practical essence of complicated and long-drawn discussions. He must often pick out that promising part of theory which ought to be tested by experiment, and must decide how many of things desirable are also attainable and what one of many projects is ripest for execution. He must watch and look before; watch to seize opportunities to get money, to secure eminent teachers and scholars and to influence public opinion toward the advancement of learning; and to look before, to anticipate the due effect on the university of the fluctuations of public opinion on educational problems, of the progress of the institutions which feed the university, of the changing conditions of the professions which the university supplies, of the rise of new professions, of the gradual alteration of social and religious habits in the community. The university must accommodate itself promptly to significant changes in the character of the people for whom it exists. . . . In this mobile nation the action and reaction between the university and society at large are more

sensitive and rapid than in stiffer communities. The president, therefore must not need to see a house built before he can comprehend the plan of it. He can profit by a wide intercourse with all sorts of men and by every real discussion on education, legislation and sociology." And now in his book, as President Eliot retires, he reiterates the above statement, not only for the benefit of presidents but for the benefit also of all those on whom presidents must rely.

President Eliot also discusses in two notable chapters, "The Elective System" and "Methods of Instruction," in which views are expressed that cannot be altogether agreeable to Col. Larned.

This book on *University Administration* leaves on one the impression that whereas Harvard in 1869 was a sturdy youth of eighteen ready for any task, now our oldest university is a strong man of forty with innumerable concerns, some of which are still inchoate and others almost ready to be articulated with the general scheme. Professor Lowell, the new Harvard guide, knows already that not a great deal has been determined for all time. Theory as well as time has more than once proved the needlessness of the absolutely necessary.

A writer in the *Engineering News,* tormented by the number of subjects taught in our colleges, desires the establishment of a chair of "horse sense." The editor of this column must for once rise in his place and tell an expectant world that, while he proposes a professorship of the obvious, he is opposed to a chair of horse sense. There is always too much cry for horse sense—not for the sense of Pegasus, but for that of the ordinary faithful horse that may run, but never will fly. Horse sense measured by the superlative degree is an obstruction on the high-road. A person afflicted with too much horse sense is a menace to the commonwealth and he should be put under restraint. What is needed most is a luminous and courageous *imagination* that sees the obvious and something more.

G. L.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE TECHNIQUE OF THE NOVEL: The Elements of the Art, their Evolution and Present Use. By Charles F. Horne, Ph.D. ('89), Assistant Professor of English in the College of the City of New York. New York and Londan, Harper and Brothers, 1908.

Professor Horne's work, one of the most considerable of the recent literary productions of the College, has been widely commented upon in the daily press, as well as in the more serious reviews. It has been several times reported from the Public Library as one of the books most in demand. In a number of colleges it is already in use as a text-book. We congratulate the author upon his success.

The work is divided into two parts. In the first, "The Origin of the Novel," after two preliminary chapters in which the ground is prepared, a brief history is given, beginning with Egyptian Tales and extending to the early modern novels. The second part, which we confess we prefer, deals with "The Development of the Modern Novel" under the six captions, Plot, Motive and Verisimilitude, Character, Emotion, Background, and Style. In each case the treatment is both historical and critical, a treatment which must be recognized as one of the best features of the book.

The author, of course, does not claim to make novel-writers, but simply "to make clear the principles that underlie this most popular form of literature." In this aim he appears to have succeeded admirably. The methodical presentation, accompanied by ample illustration from a wide range of fiction, cannot fail to be of interest and advantage, both to novel-readers and to those who are ambitious to enter this field of literature.

SELECTED ESSAYS OF SENECA, with Introduction and Notes. By Allan P. Ball, Ph.D., Instructor in Latin in the College of the City of New York. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1908. Price 60 cents.

This volume, which Dr. Ball has published in the series of

"Macmillan's Latin Classics," contains, in addition to ten selected moral epistles, the burlesque on the deification of Claudius, and the famous "De Clementia" and "De Consolatione"; certainly an admirable introduction to an author who is probably less read than he deserves. The editor believes that the "pieces with a political bearing may give the reader just as typical an impression of Seneca's style and philosophic attitude as those in which he appears simply in the character of a man of letters." Prefixed to the text is a skilfully condensed account of Seneca's Life, Works and Style and of the Stoic Philosophy, together with a brief bibliography. The notes, which fill about the same amount of space as the text, are clearly written and seem, on a cursory examination, to convey just about the information needed by those to whom the book is addressed. An index of names concludes the volume. This is no place for an estimate of the value of the work as a piece of classical scholarship, but it bears on the face of it every evidence of being a task well performed.

ITALIAN LESSONS. By A. Arbib-Costa (French Department). New York, Franceso Tocci, 1908.

This manual, which is based as the author says partly on the method of Professor Downer's *First French Book,* is an excellent volume for beginners in the study of Italian. The exercises are practical, the rules generally clear and sufficient, and the examples and illustrations well-chosen. A little more care in the proof-reading of the English parts would have been advisable, but the faults are not such as seriously to impair the usefulness of the treatise. This is not a work for learning Italian without a master, but in the hands of a capable teacher it ought to give intelligent students a working knowledge of the language in the course of a single college term. The present usage alone is treated, which gives the advantage of simplicity. One familiar with modern Italian, who wishes to read the authors of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, can readily pick up for himself the peculiarities of the older speech. On the whole Mr. Arbib-Costa has produced a book that will be useful to the growing number of Americans who desire some acquaintance with the language of the beautiful peninsular kingdom.

TACITE ET LA LITTÉRATURE FRANÇAISE par Louis Delamarre. (A Thesis for the Doctorate submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Graduate School, New York University, New York, 1905.) Paris, Bonvalat-Jouve, éditeur, 15 rue Racine, 1907. 219 pages.

Dr. Delamarre's thesis is written in French and is divided into three parts. Part I determines to what extent Tacitus' works have been used as text-books in French schools; Part II contains the conflicting opinions of French writers and critics on Tacitus, and Part III refers to his influence on French literature.

Before the Renaissance, the great Latin historian seems to have been very little known. During the fourteenth century, he was read by every humanist and became the favorite author of such philologists as Justus Lipsius and Marc-Antoine Muret, but his books were considered too deep and too obscure to be put into the hands of young boys. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Tacitus was studied in the schools of the Jesuits, the Oratorians and Port-Royal, but was not recognized by the University of Paris till 1720. Numerous editions and translations of his works, however, appeared. In the nineteenth century at length, Tacitus was explained wherever Latin was taught in France.

Up to the eighteenth century, his detractors seem to have outnumbered his admirers, but since, he has been acknowledged by the best critics as the greatest historian that ever lived. "If the aim of history is to revive the past, Taine says, no historian can be compared with Tacitus." His conscientious exactness, his strict fairness, his moralizing, his deep insight into political affairs, his keen analysis of the human heart, his forceful and concise style have been almost unanimously praised.

His influence on French literature is well marked. He has affected all the great French moralists, but he has especially found imitators among the historians and inspired many of the best dramatists. Among others the tragedy *Othon* by Corneille is based on his *Historiæ* and the subject of the tragedy *Britannicus* by Racine is borrowed from his *Annales*.

From this brief review it will be seen that Dr. Delamarre's dissertation is conscientious and exhaustive. The third part, com-

prising 130 pages, is highly interesting for the student of French literature. The reviewer could not help admiring the elegant and flowing style, the rich vocabulary and the clear presentation of the subject, features which add to the value of the work.

Finally let us mention that the thesis is dedicated to Prof. E. G. Sihler, of New York University, whose enthusiasm for Latin and Greek is an inspiration to those who are fortunate enough to study under his guidance.

V. E. F.

BRIEFER MENTION

The United States Catholic Historical Society has just published its fourth monograph. The volume is edited by Professor Ch. G. Herbermann, president of the society. It contains facsimile reproductions of the "Cosmographiæ Introductio," a geographical treatise by Martin Waldseemueller first published in 1507, and of the Latin version of the "Four Voyages" by Amerigo Vespucci.

There follow English translations of both these documents. The translation of the former is by Associate Professor Edmund Burke; that of the latter, by Dr. Mario E. Cosenza. The volume, therefore, is distinctly the output of the Latin Department of the College. There is also a thirty-page introduction by Professors Jos. Fisher, S. J., and Franz von Wieser.

Our indefatigable Secretary of the Faculty, Professor Carleton L. Brownson, has, in addition to his other arduous duties, brought out *Selections from Xenophon's Hellenica,* with introduction, notes and appendices, in Ginn's Greek Series for Colleges and Schools, which is under the general editorial supervision of Professor Herbert Weir Smyth, of Harvard University. The labor and scholarship which have been put into the editing of this text can be fully appreciated only by Greek scholars, but all will welcome its appearance as a contribution by the College to the advancement of classical studies in this country. Our men are doing their full share in sending forth valuable literary, scientific and philological publications.

In the Indo-Iranian Series, published by the Columbia University Press, there appeared in November *The Sayings of Buddha* by Justin H. Moore ('03), Ph.D., of the French Department, a translation of the Iti-vuttaka, a Pali collection.

In *Exercises in French Composition* by P. J. Marique and H. B. Gilson of the College of the City of New York, the aim of the authors is "to give the student an opportunity to turn to account the capital he has acquired in the way of vocabulary, verb forms and constructions." The book leads slowly to original composition. It has two parts. Each lesson of Part I contains a short text followed by questions and composition exercises. Part II consists of topics to be treated by the student and ends with a few pages of model letters. The book is replete with helpful suggestions and deserves the approval of all up-to-date teachers of French.

Montrose J. Moses, '99, has published through Mitchell Kennerly a volume entitled *Heinrik Ibsen: The Man and His Plays.* The work contains a sketch of the dramatist's life, synopses of his plays, and much comment and interpretation. While Mr. Moses cites the views of those who have preceded him in this field, he does not simply follow their lead, but has his own opinions upon his subject. This work will doubtless add to the reputation which our author has established as a student of the drama.

In two articles in *The Outlook* (January 9–16) on "The Promised Tariff Reform," Mr. Everett P. Wheeler, '56, urges with his usual effectiveness the necessity of lower duties and the importance of having them at once. The argument has been reprinted as a pamphlet.

TRUSTEES AND FACULTY

THE Board of Trustees, while still mostly engaged upon contracts for the new buildings, is nearing the end of that tedious and wearing work. Among other items of business which have been taken up, we may mention the registration of the College with the Regents of the State University, which has been accomplished, the provisions for salaries and for the use of the College property, the reception of gifts, and the appointment of new teachers. In future all applications for the use of College property for purposes other than those immediately connected with the work of the College must be referred to a committee which shall report such applications to the next meeting of the Board, with its recommendations: but in all cases where the interval of time between the application and the date of the event for which the use of the property is desired does not permit report of the application to the Board, the Committee will have power to pass upon the application and report its decision at the following Board meeting. Under this By-law, the Committee and the Board have already granted to the State Music Teachers' Association permission to hold its annual convention in the Great Hall during the month of July.

In regard to salaries the Board adopted a new by-law allowing it to increase the compensation of any college teacher by an amount not exceeding five hundred dollars a year in case that special and unusual service is required in addition to the regular and usual service. Under this rule the salaries of Professors Brownson, Secretary to the Faculty, and Moody, Secretary to the Executive Council, have been increased. Another matter concerning compensation of teachers was the allowance of one hundred dollars each to twenty lecturers in the Extension Courses for Teachers.

From the Class of '78 was accepted a group of memorial windows to be placed in the Faculty Room, and from the Class of '86 a valuable tapestry which Professor Bashford Dean secured for his classmates in Munich.

Concerning the resignation of Trustee James Byrne, his associates adopted a minute which reads in part as follows: "For more than five years he has put at the service of the College—and with unstinted generosity—the ample measure of his intellectual energy and power, and his eminent gifts in professional skill and administrative wisdom. Although not under the obligations of gratitude as an alumnus of the College which rightly called upon some of us for sacrifice, he has not spared himself in the work. He has willingly yielded to the wish, often—perhaps too often—expressed by us, that he should undertake the most critical and trying parts of our work. Where we have needed courage, he has provided it; where we have needed caution, that, also, he has provided. So it is that his trusteeship has been unsurpassed in benefaction to this Cause which is so dear to us.

Changes in the Instructing Staff. George A. Daly, mathematics, Valeriano Gutiérrez, Spanish, and Waldemar Dorfman, French, have resigned. Mr. Daly goes to the Cathedral School and Mr. Dorfman to the Stuyvesant High School. Alfred G. Panaroni, French, has taken a year's leave of absence for study abroad. On the other hand, L. Herbert Alexander, French, who has been teaching a year in Canada, has returned to the College. Henry Neumann has been transferred from English to Education, and William B. Boyd from Natural History to Physical Instruction. Assistant tutor J. L. Sporer has been placed in charge of the text-books.

Myron H. Tripp has been promoted to the grade of Instructor. Mr. Tripp is a graduate of Cornell and has been teaching in the College several years. He is one of the very few who has won the Ph.D. in mathematics at Columbia. As this degree requires an original mathematical investigation, it is one of the rarest of any conferred in this country. To have attained it is a signal honor.

The following appointments have been made: Chemistry—assistant tutor, Arthur M. Lumley, to give instruction, and assistant tutor to aid the Secretary of the Executive Council, D. S. Williams, a graduate of Hobart.

English—tutor, Michael J. Keleher, a graduate of Georgetown and of St. Francis Xavier, now a student in advanced courses at Columbia.

French—tutors, Jean F. P. des Garennes, A.M. and LL.M. of Georgetown; Ralph Tilmont, A.B., '88, and Doctor utriusque juris '03, University of Brussels, Belgium, former teacher in the Sachs Collegiate Institute of New York.

History—tutors James Robert White, a graduate of the Albany Normal College and of the Illinois Wesleyan University, former post-graduate student at Harvard and teacher in the Albany Normal College; E. F. Humphrey, graduate of the University of Minnesota and former local superintendent of schools in that state.

Natural History—tutor Dayton J. Edwards, graduate of the University of Maine, late assistant in biology at Columbia.

Physical Instruction—assistant tutors, W. H. Heard of Columbia, Carl M. Myers of Buchtel College and Columbia, Alfred Neues, director of the gymnasium at the Green Point Settlement, Wallace Manheimer, C. C. N. Y., '08, and Clarence S. Heuer.

Physics—tutor in shop-work, H. C. Jeffery, a former student at Syracuse University and Pratt Institute.

Spanish—tutor, Alfredo Elias, graduate of the University of Barcelona.

Profesor John Grier Hibben, Ph.D., of Princeton was, on Jan. 25, appointed special Professor of Philosophy for the term from February to June, 1909. Mr. Hibben is a graduate of Princeton, '82 and has been professor of logic in that university. He is the author of *Inductive Logic, The Problems of Philosophy, Hegel's Logic,* and *Deductive Logic,* and editor of *Epochs of Philosophy,* a work in twelve volumes by various authors.

COLLEGE NOTES

CHAPEL exercises, so familiar to our older graduates, have not as yet been held in the Great Hall of the new buildings. Daily gatherings of the student body seem out of the question, and even the proposed weekly assembly has thus far proved impracticable. Nevertheless, from time to time, on special occasions, the students have had the opportunity of coming together to listen to addresses of unusual interest. At the opening exercises, September 23, President Remsen, '65, spoke briefly and there was singing by the boys. On the evening of October 28 a bronze tablet commemorating the Battle of Harlem Heights, which had been presented by the Sons of the Revolution, was unveiled in the History Museum by Miss Wetmore. The procession then proceeded to the Great Hall, where addresses were delivered by Mr. Edmund Wetmore, President Finley, Mr. Shepard and Mr. John C. Tomlinson. The music was provided by Professor Baldwin, Miss Maud Morgan and the singing of the audience. On the afternoon before Thanksgiving Gen. Leonard A. Wood spoke to the students. Again on December 23, Andrew Carnegie made an address, Richard Watson Gilder read two poems, the Choral Society rendered Professor Baldwin's Cantata "Wisdom," and Gutzon Borglum presented to the College his bronze head of Lincoln, which was unveiled by the president of the Student Council. President and Mrs. Finley afterwards received the Faculty and Guests in the tower rooms.

The Lincoln Centenary was celebrated at the College by three exercises. First came the opening of the Lincoln Exhibit in the History Museum on the evening of the eleventh. The members of the Department deserve great credit for their success in getting together a most interesting collection of memorials. On the afternoon of the twelfth, Messrs. Mead, Guthrie and Robinson gave addresses on Lincoln's life and work, and in the evening a vast meeting was held in the Great Hall. Mr. McGowan presided and Commissioner Draper was the orator of the occasion.

The music was provided by Professor Baldwin, Mr. Otto Goritz, the Metropolitan Opera House orchestra and several hundred singers from the German choral societies of the city. Early in the evening the doors had to be closed and hundreds were turned away for lack of accommodation.

Learned Societies are coming to meet frequently at the College. Last term the American Electro-Chemical Society was entertained by the Department of Chemistry, the Society of College Directors of Physical Education by the Department of Physical Instruction, and the Association of History Teachers of the Middle States and Maryland by the Department of History.

Social relations among the instructors and between students and Faculty are being cultivated. The Faculty Club has held several dances in the Gymnasium, while the instructors' dinner was held in December with the usual success. Moreover, in addition to President Finley's October reception to the Freshmen, the Seniors have twice entertained the Faculty in the tower rooms, November 7 and January 16.

The Soph. Show, as amusing as usual, was given on January 8 at the Carnegie Lyceum. The play this year, entitled "Just Jack," dealt with an episode of American college life.

The joint debate, held on the evening of December 23, was won by Phrenocosmia. The record is now 39 victories for Phrenocosmia and 37 for Clionia, certainly a very close score.

The Y. M. C. A. has arranged a series of addresses on "Vocations," to which all are invited. Among the speakers have been Trustee Lee Kohns, '84, who spoke on "Business"; Mr. Hamilton W. Mabie on "Journalism"; Dr. Joseph W. Bryant on "Medicine"; Dr. Devine on "Social Service."

At the closing exercises of the A Class of the Academic Department, held Monday evening, February 8, Professor Werner presided and the customary addresses were delivered. The occasion was signalized by the presentation by the class of a portrait of Professor Sim. Painted by Joseph C. Chase of our Drawing

Department, this portrait is one of the most life-like in the possesion of the College.

Professor Ferrero lectured on "Nero" in the History Lecture Room on the afternoon of January 12. This lecture was made possible by the generosity of an alumnus.

Lectures have been delivered in various places by the following instructors: Chemistry, Prof. Baskerville and Dr. Estabrook; English, Drs. Crowne, Neumann and Taaffe; Education, Prof. Duggan; French, Drs. Delamarre and Moore, and Messrs. Lamouret, Queneau and Weill; History, Prof. Thompson and Dr. Mead; Latin, Drs. Ball and Lowther; Political Science, Prof. Clark and Dr. Guthrie. We are not sure that the list is complete, but it is sufficient to show that the College is doing its part in the instruction of the adult general public.

GIFTS TO THE COLLEGE, not referred to in other columns: from Mrs. Fannie Garrison Villard, a portrait of her father, William Lloyd Garrison, and a copy of his writings; from Littig and Company, photogravures of American colleges hung in the Alumni Room; from Mrs. William Kelly Prentice, two portraits of her father, who was one of the founders of the College and who was one of the speakers at its opening exercises; from the sisters and children of R. Ogden Doremus, a crayon portrait of the Professor for the Doremus Theater; from Hanford Crawford, '75, *Facsimiles of the Writings of Robert Burns;* from James Godwin, '58, for the library, twenty-two volumes of the *Illustrated London News,* dating back to the period of the Crimean War; from Mr. Jacob Schiff, to the political science library, a copy of the *Jewish Encyclopædia* and fifty other volumes relating to the Jewish race, selected by Dr. Herbert Friedenwald, secretary of the American Jewish Society. Several gifts to the Historical Museum are not included in this list, being reserved for a later issue.

Among the activities of President Finley may be mentioned numerous public addresses, among them being one at the laying of the corner stone of the New National Theater on Central Park West, one before the Colony Club on "Private Efforts in Public Service," one at the annual meeting of the New York State Teachers' Association at Syracuse, December 28. His long ex-

pected book, *The American Executive and Executive Methods,* was published by The Century Company just before the holidays. He has also been elected vice-president of the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States and Maryland and a member of the New York State Examination Board.

Professor Downer has been appointed by the State Examination Board chairman of the committee to prepare the papers in French.

Among the members of the National Institute of Arts and Letters are President Finley, Professor Dielman and Professor John Bach McMaster, '72.

Dr. Norris A. Brisco, Economics, has been elected Fellow both of the Royal Economic Society of London and of the Royal Historical Society.

At the October meeting of the English Club Mr. Stair presided and papers were presented by Mr. Otis on "Aldus Manutius" and by Mr. Selvage on "English Universities."

Mr. Arbib Costa's translation of *Dante,* a play by Mrs. Heloise Durant Rose, was enthusiastically received at Verona, Italy, when recently performed by the great Italian actor Novelli.

While reserving a review of College athletics till the end of the season, we feel that we must mention the successful Indoor Games, held December 19, and the numerous victories of the Basket Ball Team, which has defeated Yale, Princeton, Lehigh, Rensselaer Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Our team lost to Cornell and Columbia, in each case by a small margin.

On December 29, at the joint meeting of the American Physiological Society and Section "K" of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Professor Thomas A. Story delivered an address on "The Regulation of Physical Instruction in Schools and Colleges from the Standpoint of Hygiene." Professor Storey has been reëlected president of the Physical Education Society of New York and Vicinity, and was recently elected a member of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine.

Dr. Wm. L. Prager, of the Department of Chemistry, published papers entitled "The Victor Myer Esterification Law" and "Studies in Esterification II" in the December number of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society.*

Louis J. Cohen (chemistry), with William J. Gies, has published an article entitled "A study of *protagon* prepared by the Wilson-Cramer method" in the *Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine.*

At the Modern Language Conference held at Columbia University, November 23, Mr. Alfred D. Compton (English) presented a paper on "The Prejudice against Actors."

Dr. Ball, of the Latin Department, is the official correspondent of the College for the *New York Evening Post.*

Friday lectures are given on chemical topics by distinguished outside specialists in the Doremus Theater, and another series is delivered in French by members of the French Department in Room 306.

Associate Superintendent Gustave Straubenmüller, '80, at the invitation of the Faculty, addressed that body in the Faculty Room, December 21, on "Industrial Education," a subject upon which he has made special studies.

Gaston Laffargue, French Department, has been elected vice-president of the National Society of French Teachers.

A new incubator, combining all the best features of previous ones and having a paraffin bath, has been designed by Dr. Scott for the Department of Natural History. It is soon to be put upon the market.

ALUMNI NOTES

THE Alumni Dinner, held January 23, was unusually successful. The gathering was large, the enthusiasm sufficient, and the speeches most interesting. Mr. Alrick H. Man, '77, who presided and acted as toastmaster, struck the dominant tone of the evening, the relations of the College and the high schools. Of course this was not the only subject of discourse, but it was constantly coming up in one form or another. The speakers were President Finley and Professors Compton and Werner, for the College; Edward M. Shepard, '69, who grew delightfully reminiscent; Controller Metz, Gen. Leonard Wood, and Principal John H. Denbigh, who represented the outside world; and Lee Kohns, '84, who stood for his class and its twenty-fifth birthday. The interest of the occasion is shown by the fact that, although the hour was late, practically the whole company remained to hear the last word spoken and to join in the farewell song.

The City College Club has made some innovations at its meetings this academic year. Two receptions have been tendered—one to the Trustees of the College and the other to the President and Faculty of the Normal College. Both were well attended and at the second the presence of the ladies added to the attractions of the evening. In addition to the general social functions of these receptions, there were brief and enjoyable addresses by the President of the Club and by the visitors. January 9 was devoted to a New Year's celebration, at which everyone present was called upon to take part as one of the entertainers. Later in the month, on the thirtieth, Dr. Benjamin M. Briggs, '61, enlivened a stormy evening with a discourse on "New York, the Fountain of Youth." Mr. Robert C. Birkhahn, '01, has been elected treasurer in place of Mr. John Weldon, Jr., '61, who resigned after many years of service.

The Gamma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa held meetings November 19 and January 28. At the former Professor Lewis F. Mott,

'83, read a paper on "Giosuè Carducci," in which he gave a rather full account of the life and the multiform activities of the Italian scholar and poet, including some translations from his works. The second meeting was devoted to business and the election of officers. Those chosen were: President, Adolph Werner, '57; vice-president, Lewis F. Mott, '83; treasurer, Frederick M. Pedersen, '89; recording secretary, Arthur T. Hanson, '98; corresponding secretary, Gustave Le Gras, '79; committee on admissions, John R. Sim, '69, John S. Battell, '73, Charles H. Parmly, '88, Livingston R. Schuyler, '89, Alexander B. Siegel, '05. The retiring treasurer, Henry S. Carr, '66, received a vote of appreciation and thanks for his long years of faithful service. Professor Werner was requested to prepare for delivery before a meeting in the near future an historical account of the Gamma Chapter of New York.

The sixth annual dinner of the Mechanical Society of the College of the City of New York was held on January 16 at Scheffel Hall. About thirty members attended and enjoyed one of the pleasantest social reunions in the history of the society. Vocational Training and Opportunities for College Men in the Industrial World were the subjects of the remarks of the principal speakers of the evening. This was also the occasion of the annual election of officers. The officers elected for the ensuing year are: President, Arthur Bruckner, '92; vice-presidents, Engelbert Neus, '93, and Frederick J. Foster, '91; treasurer, Oswald J. Karsch, '03; corresponding secretary, Samuel Shwarz, '02; recording secretary, Frederick W. Moore, '93; historian, William Fox, '84.

The Quinquennial Banquet of the class of '93 was held at the Graduate's Club, December 12, twenty-one being present. Every item on the bill of fare bore the name of some former instructor, but this fact did not apparently detract from anyone's enjoyment of his dinner. After the coffee, the table was removed and the boys gathered around the open fire-place for a smoke and a talk. It was agreed to hold a reunion every year, the next one to be entirely informal, the idea being to get every available member to attend. The officers, who were reëlected, are: President, John D. Haney; vice-president, Carl W. Kinkeldey; secretary, Edward

J. McNally; treasurer, Arthur S. Tenner; historian, Gilman S. Stanton.

The boys of "1864" celebrated the 45th Anniversary of their Graduation from the Free Academy, "in Music, Wine and Song," on February 6 by a spread at the Hotel Savoy. The President, Geo. E. Hoe, delivered the address of welcome and the Secretary, Lewis M. Hornthal, gave reminiscences of the days gone by, and statistics and interesting facts of the class. Each of the graduates of the class was accounted for. Of the forty, there were present at the dinner fourteen, there had died nineteen, there were absent by reason of illness two, and the remaining six had wandered so far from the Metropolis that they could not come, although all sent their regrets. Prof. Adolph Werner, the guest of honor of the occasion, gave some insight into the present college life and Edward Lauterbach imparted information concerning the Regents and the rules adopted by them to aid students in obtaining their diplomas by regents, points or marks. Judges Leventritt and Flammer and several of the others present gave some of their experiences and all departed towards the "wee sma hours" promising to return and whoop it up on the Golden Anniversary five years hence.

The dinner of the City College Class-Secretaries' Association was held at the College on December 3, 1908, in the Faculty Luncheon Room. Thirty-one persons were present, including the President of the College, the president of the Alumni Association and L. S. Burchard, who attended at the birth of the association. The dinner was a gratifying success in every way, and the association is diligently at work on alumni records and College expansion of importance.

Joseph A. Fripp, '79, died in the spring of 1908. On January 15, 1909, a tablet of Mr. Fripp was unveiled in the presence of many friends in Public School 79, of which he had been the popular and efficient principal for a number of years. Well-known gentlemen connected with our schools paid honor to the distinguished services which Mr. Fripp had given for more than twenty-five years.

The following graduates of the College were among those selected by the Board of Education as speakers at the Lincoln Celebration, Friday, February 12: Hon. Everett P. Wheeler, '56, Public School 32; Hon. John J. Delaney, '60, Public School 65; Hon. Edward Lauterbach, '64, Public School 5, Brooklyn; Hon. Julius M. Mayer, '84, Public School 59; Rev. Samuel Schulman, '85, Public School 150.

PERSONAL

'56. Everett P. Wheeler writes the article on Daniel Webster for Prof. W. D. Lewis's *Great American Lawyers.*

'64. David Leventritt has been appointed by Governor Hughes a member of the board to investigate facts regarding speculation in commodities and securities.

'65. Remsen, Ira. At the recent meeting in Washington of the National Commission on the Conservation of the Natural Resources of the Country, President Remsen of Johns Hopkins University represented the National Academy of Sciences.

'69. Edward M. Shepard has been elected vice-president of the Bar Association of New York City.

'71. Abraham Stern has been reappointed Commissioner of Education.

'78. Paul Krotel has been appointed by Mayor McClellan a City Magistrate to succeed Charles G. F. Wahle. Mr. Krotel was appointed an Assistant District Attorney in January, 1902, and has served under Mr. Jerome since. For several years he has been at the head of the Complaint Bureau of the District Attorney's office and has had a large experience in Special Sessions and the Magistrates' Courts in this county.

'80. Franz Torek, who is attending surgeon to the German Hospital and the New York Skin and Cancer Hospital and adjunct professor of surgery in the New York Post-graduate Medical School, was elected president of the German Medical Society on December 7, 1908.

'81. John Baumeister has been appointed First Assistant in modern languages in the Flushing High School.

'83. Dr. W. Travis Gibb is the recipient of an unusual honor: the new and handsome operating pavilion of the New York City Home for the Aged and Infirm on Blackwell's Island was named for the doctor with appropriate public exercises on February 25. Dr. Gibb is visiting surgeon at the home, with which he has been connected for fifteen years. It is a happy circumstance, too unusual in such cases, that the recognition of Dr. Gibb's public service is made while he still has years of usefulness before him.

'83. George Schaettler made the alterations in the interior of the old Custom House to fit it for the use of the City Bank.

'84. Julius M. Mayer has been elected counsel of the commission ap-

pointed by Governor Hughes to investigate conditions in the magistrates' courts and special sessions in this city, Rochester and Buffalo.

'90. Max J. Kohler is secretary of the Jewish Historical Society which met in Philadelphia February 21 and 22.

'97. Charles E. Morrison, C.E., Ph.D., tutor in civil engineering at Columbia, has recently published through John Wiley and Sons a text-book on "Highway Engineering."

'01. Louis I. Dublin has been appointed assistant teacher of biology in the Commercial High School.

'04. William I. Heller has been appointed junior teacher of French in De Witt Clinton High School.

'06. I. Newton Hoffman, former editor of the *Mercury*, who after graduation was connected with the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, is now on the staff of the *Journal of Commerce*.

'07. George Sylvester Viereck, according to a newspaper despatch from Berlin, delivered before a distinguished audience there a lecture upon the intellectual relations between Germany and the United States. *The Vampyre*, a play based upon his novel of this name, and written in collaboration with a friend, was performed for some weeks at one of the leading New York theatres.

OBITUARY

HUGH KELLY, who was for four years ('95–'98) an active member of the Executive Committee of the College, died October 30. He was at one time a student here, but, owing to an accident which happened to his father, he was obliged to leave at the end of his freshman year. He entered a West Indian sugar merchant's office. Perceiving the value of a knowledge of Spanish in this business, he began to study that language with ardor, and he soon mastered it so fully that he was able, not only to use it for commercial and conversational purposes, but to make public addresses in it with fluency and correctness. In 1884 Mr. Kelly established the house of Hugh Kelly and Company, which became well known in every cane sugar growing country. He himself was an expert, an eminent authority in sugar-house engineering and sugar manufacture, having been successful in designing and constructing several of the largest factories of modern equipment. Mr. Kelly was also highly esteemed in financial circles, and he acted as director of some of the strongest institutions in New York. In 1896 and 1897 he was president of the Maritime Exchange of this port. In spite of his manifold business activities, he found time for extensive philanthropical labors in the management of educational charitable and religious institutions. Mr. Kelly received the degrees of bachelor of arts and doctor of laws from Fordham University. He was earnest and devout, yet broad-minded and tolerant: in every way a model of elevation of soul and generosity of spirit.

GEORGE L. CLARK, '53, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Phelps, in Bayonne, N. J., December 28, 1908. He was born in New York, March 14, 1835. From the public schools he entered with first class at the Free Academy. In his early life he was connected with Wallace and Elliot and also with Whitehouse and Dorsh in the wholesale boot and shoe business. In late years he had been with the American Express Company, and had gone to

business regularly until December 3, 1908, when he was stricken with apoplexy which was followed by pneumonia. Mr. Clark made friends both with men of his own age and with younger men. He was a great reader and was well-informed upon the topics of the day. Yachting was his chief recreation. He was a devoted husband and father. Ten years ago his only son died, and this great loss was followed by the death of his wife and his youngest daughter. These bereavements contributed greatly to his growing feebleness and caused him to appear to age rapidly.

CHARLES ROBERTS, '62, was born in New York, April 19, 1843. His father came from Vermont and his mother, Emma C. Sinclair, was born in Maryland. The Roberts are of colonial stock. Peter Roberts settled in Providence about 1650; his descendants served in the French and Indian War, and four of the family fought at Bennington.

Mr. Roberts attended the public schools of this city on Allen Street and on Twenty-fourth Street, and from the Broome Street school he entered the Free Academy in 1857. Here he pursued the classical course. He won medals for proficiency in mathematics and in Greek, and was valedictorian of his class. In 1865 he took his A.M. degree.

After graduation Mr. Roberts taught school one year. He entered the Treasury Department and then enlisted as lieutenant in the Signal Corps, in which he served from 1863 to 1865. He was tutor at the City College from 1866 to 1876. Then he became Professor of Elocution in the Union Theological Seminary, where he remained until 1903, when he resigned on account of ill-health. In 1870 he was graduated from Columbia Law School.

He was twice married; first to Murriel Ottilie Michaelis, July, 1869, by whom he had three daughters; and again in April, 1901, to Jessie Alexander, who, with one young son, survives him. Professor Roberts was a member of the Loyal Legion, Sons of the American Revolution, the St. Nicholas Society and the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity.

JOSEPH A. FRIPP—AN APPRECIATION

(February 27, 1859–May 17, 1908)

By Superintendent Albert Shiels

Joseph A. Fripp was born of Irish and Swiss parentage nearly half a century ago. When a boy he attended Public School 2, in Henry Street, and then became a student in the College of the City of New York. He was graduated from that institution in 1879, and subsequently took a course in law. Although admitted to the bar, he determined to become a teacher and began service in Public School 25, but a stone's throw from the school with which so many memories of his life were to be associated. Mr. Fripp was advanced from Public School 25 to Public School 16 and from that school to number 30.

Probably no man in the entire public school system was so well known: it may be said of him, too, that no one had so many friends and admirers as he. His death was felt to be a great loss to public education, not only on account of the work he had accomplished, but because of the fine influence his personality exerted upon the army of teachers who enjoyed his friendship.

Mr. Fripp was a scholarly man. The bounds of his knowledge were not limited by the requirements of his profession. His acquaintance with history and philosophy were no mean accomplishment; he had an exquisite taste in art, and an unusual familiarity with the great compositions of music, of which he was passionately fond. Knowledge, however, could not explain the position he held among his colleagues.

He was, in addition, a man of the finest sensibilities. His insight into character was almost a sixth sense. Yet he never interpreted the actions of others save in a kindly way. He spoke meanly of no man, and whatever was good, upon that he built. The same quiet intellect and gentle sympathy that enabled him to appreciate other men at their best, made him an ideal teacher of boys. They loved him not for his abilities alone, but because in him they felt a presence that could feel with them.

Yet in that there was no trace of effeminacy. He despised

meanness and deceit, though he could forgive those guilty of it. He could be severe, for he made no compromise with falsehood, but it was a severity that made the child despise his own meanness. In his splendid support of what is right, what is manly, what is true, there was neither cant nor hypocrisy. No man was more modest, more self-effacing. The joys of his life were the satisfied hopes of his friends.

The fine discipline and spirit so characteristic of his school were obtained by an insensible appeal to the finer qualities of his boys. There was no mere scolding even in reproof. His delightful humor was as fine in his platform talks as in private converse. The goal he set before them in doing any good thing was the delight in doing it well—the thrill of triumph in overcoming difficulty. The same spirit characterized his professional attitude. He lived in a school where there was little check, and no espionage. No school could have less of what may be called the mere machinery of suspension, yet in none could there be more effort, more honorable labor, more accomplishment.

Of Mr. Fripp's positive work as an educator it is almost unnecessary to speak. He did much to advance the study of music in his schools and the results of his labor were evidenced in the assembly singing. His interest in school decoration also produced results reflected in many other schools of the city. His interest in the study of nature and natural phenomena is well known to his associates. One of his last efforts before his long illness was to give a pleasant talk to the teachers of his district on the trees of North America.

No statement however brief should omit mention of his interest in the welfare of his graduates. His relations with them were constant, and to him they went for comfort, advice and aid. How many of the young men of New York owe their inspiration to his counsel, only he knew, for of those things he spoke rarely.

Were he alive he would forbid the mention of his aid to others. Yet as an example to all men, it is right that we recall his very considerable expenditures for his school and for his pupils. These were not always in the form of money. To boys of musical taste he would present concert tickets he had himself purchased. For those whose wants required instant aid his purse was always open. Of his more immediate charities no word need here be said—yet though they were so numerous and frequent, they were

so ungrudgingly given that they seemed to give an added sweetness to his life.

Russell Sturgis, '56, died on February 11, at his home in this city, in his seventy-third year. We expect to publish an account of his distinguished career in a subsequent issue.

Dr. Oliver Wolcott Gibbs, the first professor of chemistry and physics in the College (from 1848 to 1863, died at his home in Newport, R. I., December 9, at the advanced age of 86. An account of his achievements in his profession was given in our October number, p. 194.